(99)

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BILASPUR : CHHATTISGARH

SINGLE BENCH : HON'BLE SHRI S.R. NAYAK, C.J.

WRIT PETITION NO. 2374 OF 2006

PETITIONERS:	1.	Niranjan Bharati S/o Makhan Lal Satnami Aged about 42 years, R/o Village – Dandan, Thana – Takhatpur, Tahsil – takhatpur, Distt. – Bilaspur (C.G.)
	2.	Smt Saatin Bai W/o Makhan satnami Aged about 65 years, R/o Village – Dandan, Thana – Takhatpur, Tahsil – takhatpur, Distt. – Bilaspur (C.G.)
	Versus	
RESPONDENTS:	1.	State of Chhattisgarh Through – Secretary Agriculture Department D.K.S. Bhawan, Raipur (C.G.)
	2.	Collector, Bilaspur (C.G.)
	3.	Deputy Director, Agriculture, Bilaspur (C.G.)
	4.	Sub Divisional Officer (Agriculture) Takhatpur, Distt. - Bilaspur (C.G.)
	5.	Assistant Project Officer (Sahayak Pariyozana Adhikari) Agriculture, Takhatpur, Distt. – Bilaspur (C.G.)
	6.	Rural Agricultural Development Expansion Officer (Gramin Krishi Vikas Vistar Adhikari) Village-Dandan, Tahsil- Takhatpur, Distt. Bilaspur (C.G.)

Present : Shri Sanjay Patel, learned counsel for the petitioners.
Shri Utkarsh Verma, learned Dy. G.A. for the State.

(ORAL ORDER)
(Passed on 05th May, 2006)

The grievance of the petitioners in this writ petition is that under the Indira Khet Ganga Scheme (Kisan Samridhi Yozana) floated by the State

Government of Chhattisgarh, they made an application to the Deputy Director, Agriculture, Bilaspur, the 3rd respondent herein to grant the benefit under the said Scheme, but, the 6th respondent herein demanded bribe to grant the benefit. When that was brought to the notice of the Collector, Bilaspur, the 2nd respondent herein, he initiated departmental proceedings against the said officer and the said officer was punished with a penalty of denial of one increment without cumulative effect. Indeed, the penalty imposed on the 6th respondent by the 2nd respondent, in a bribery case is quite startling, particularly in view of the law laid down by the Apex Court that in case of corruption and misappropriation, minimum penalty is either removal or dismissal from service. The petitioners complain that his application made to the 3rd respondent is not yet disposed of by the 3rd respondent.

(2) Having heard learned counsel for the parties, I dispose of the writ petition directing the 3rd respondent to consider and dispose of the above application of the petitioners made under Indira Khet Ganga Scheme (Kisan Samridhi Yozana), if not already done, within a period of one month from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.

Sd/-
Chief Justice

Subbu